tion was made, namely, the US would not oppose basic human needs loans from international financial institutions.

In July 1998, the US Congress passed an amendment called "Agriculture Export Relief Act of 1998" which took out of the purview of "sanctions" any credit, credit guarantee or financial assistance to support the purchase of good or other agricultural commodities including fertilisers. Aslo exempted from "sanctions" were medicines and medical equipment.

On November 6, 1998, on the basis of authority given to the US President by the Brownback Amendment passed by the US Congress, partial lifting of "sanctions" was announced. The order given effect to these relaxations were signed by the US President on 1 December, 1998. These relaxations are:

- Restoration of US Exim Bank, Overseas Private Insurance Corporation (OPIC) and Trade Development Agency (TDA) Programmes
- Restoration of lending by US Banks
- Restoration of International Military Education and Training (IMET) Programme

The US Government stated that it was taking this step in recognition of the progress made in the dialogue with India.

On February 18, 1999, the US and other P-5 countries did not obstruct the approval of a World Bank loan for infrastructure and power development in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

No first use of nuclear weapons by India and China

1765. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China and India have lately committed to the 'No first use of Nuclear Weapons';

(b) if so, what further confidence building measures have been taken by India and China during the last three months; and

(c) what steps are contemplated to further strengthen ties between the two people and the nations and establishment of a peace security regime in Asia?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) India has announced a policy of 'no-first-use' and non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states. China has committed itself to a policy of non-first of nuclear weapons and undertaken not to use, or threaten to use, nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon countries and nuclear weapon-free zones.

India remains committed to seeking good relations with all our neighbours, including China. We believe that the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, jointly enunciated by India and China are of continuing relevance to the development of our relations. We are committed to the resolution of outstanding differences through a process of dialogue.

Foreign Office Consultations in the framework of the Protocol on this subject concluded in August 1997, were held in Beijing on February 25-26, 1999. The talks covered bilateral, regional and international issues. The two sides agreed that the talks enchanced mutual understanding and on continuation of the dialogue at various levels.

The establishment of friendly, constructive, co-operative, good-neighbourly and mutually beneficial relationship with China will contribute to the strengthening peace and stability in Asia.

भारत की विदेश नीति

1766. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला:** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) सरकार ने वर्तमान विदेश नीति किस वर्ष में बनाई थी और उसके मूलभूत उद्देश्य क्या थे;

(ख) क्या वर्तमान विदेश नीति उद्देश्य को पूरा करने में विफल साबित हुई है;

(ग) क्या सरकार नई विदेश नीति बनाने पर विचार कर रही है; और